

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claimed invention is respectfully requested in view of the amendments, remarks and enclosures herewith, which place the application in condition for allowance.

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-14, 16 and 17 are pending in this application. The Office Action indicated that the subject matter of claim 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form which is greatly appreciated by the applicants. As such, the limitation of claim 15 has been inserted into claim 1 and claim 15 has been cancelled. Claims 16 and 17 have modified the "use" claims to be compliant with U.S. practices. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

It is submitted that the claims, herewith and as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited in the Office Action, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The amendments of the claims, as presented herein, are not made for purposes of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§§§ 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these amendments and additions are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. THE 35 U.S.C. 103(a) REJECTION HAS BEEN OVERCOME

Claims 1-14, 16, and 17 were rejected as allegedly being obvious by Fritz et al. in view of Fox et al. The applicants request reconsideration of this rejection for the following reasons. As noted above, the applicants have inserted the limitation of claim 15 into claim 1 and therefore the rejection of claims 1-14, 16 and 17 has been rendered moot. The applicants reserve the right to pursue the scope of the claims as originally filed in a continuing application.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks and amendments herewith, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The undersigned looks forward to hearing favorably from the Examiner at an early date, and, the Examiner is invited to telephonically contact the undersigned to advance prosecution. The Commission is authorized to charge any fee occasioned by this paper, or credit any overpayment of such fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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